

REMARKS

SUMMARY

Claims 18-20 and 22-34 are pending. Claim 21 has been cancelled, and claims 18-20 and 22-34 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 21 and 23-28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent format. Therefore, Applicant has amended the claims accordingly, without prejudice or disclaimer.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 102

Claims 18-20, 22, and 29-33 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over US Patent No. 6,803,529 to Takahashi. Independent claim 18 was amended to incorporate subject matter previously deemed allowable. The remaining rejected claims are dependent on claim 18, or also include subject matter separately determined to be allowable. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 103

Claim 34 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over US Patent No. 6,803,529 to Takahashi. Claim 34 is dependent indirectly on claim 18, which was amended to incorporate subject matter previously deemed allowable. Thus, claim 34 is allowable, for at least the same reasons as claim 18. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 18-20 and 22-34 are in condition for allowance and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 796-2844. Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 500393.

Respectfully submitted,
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